

# GUN TRUCKS USED IN IRAQ



- At the request of House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has designed modular, heavy-duty armor kits to protect military trucks.
- With the addition of machine guns in the rear of the trucks, the armor kits are used to convert supply trucks into convoy protection vehicles.
- Some 31 trucks have been outfitted with the armor protection kits and are being used in convoy protection on the roads of Iraq.
- Together, the U.S. Army and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency have allocated an additional \$3.5 million for gun box armor kits for 80 more trucks.
- The armor kits are made from readily available and low-cost armor steel and ballistic fiberglass panels. These kits have been modified and improved from designs deployed during the Vietnam War. Side walls feature two-foot by two-foot sections of transparent armor to protect the machine gun operators.
- Armor kits cost \$40,000 each and can be assembled by a team within five hours.
- The first prototype gun truck was built in March 2004, then tested at the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command's Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. It was shipped to Iraq in July 2004.
- The armor kit technology has been transferred to Plate Fabrication and Machining of Philadelphia, Pa., and to two other firms — Waco Composites of Waco, Texas, and Protective Armored Systems of Lenoxdale, Mass.



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A gun truck, with an armor kit developed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers and engineers, was struck by an improvised explosive device on March 23, 2005, southwest of Fallujah, Iraq. All seven U.S. soldiers in the vehicle at the time of the attack walked away unharmed.

A high-resolution image of this photo is available at the Web at:  
[http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news\\_releases/2005/NR-05-07-04.html](http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news_releases/2005/NR-05-07-04.html).